



January 25, 2002
Volume 2002, Issue 3

Inside this Issue:

Louisville Adoption Fair

CFC Personnel Manual Available Online

Governor and First Lady Announce Legislation to Protect Women and Children

CHS Lab Survey Finds Exceptional Results



The Pipeline



Louisville Adoption Fair

If you have ever considered adopting a child, but didn't know how to begin or where to go for information, Feb. 10 is your big day.

The Louisville Adoption Fair will be held at U of L's Shelby Campus Feb. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m., where information will be available on every aspect of adoption and foster care – from eligibility and preparation to support services after the adoption is complete. Representatives from government agencies, private agencies, and support groups will be on hand to hold workshops, answer questions, and hand out literature.

No matter what type of adoption may interest you – international adoption, private-agency, or state-agency adoption, infant adoption, or adoption of older or medically fragile children – this group of professionals can provide the information you need. Prospective parents won't have to go from agency to agency for the big picture.

The Adoption Fair is sponsored by Wednesday's Child and the Cabinet for Families and Children's Department for Community Based Services. CFC will hold follow-up meetings a week or so after the fair, and people who want to adopt from the Cabinet will be encouraged to attend for more information. The Cabinet is looking for good homes for more than 500 children who are older, or are in sibling groups, or have physical, or emotional challenges.

The event comes at a time when both the federal government and Gov. Paul

Patton are stressing the need to streamline the adoption process and recruit more adoptive parents.

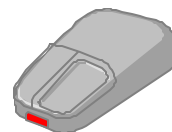
"We know children are happier and healthier if they are swiftly placed in a permanent and loving home, and many families would be thrilled to adopt children who are waiting for these homes," said Judi Spooner, director of CFC's Special Needs Adoption Program in Louisville and coordinator of the fair.

The Louisville fair follows similar events that were held in Lexington and Covington in November. Other agencies taking part include: A Helping Hand; Adopt!; Adoption and HomeStudy Specialists; Adoptions of Kentucky; Catholic Charities; Childplace; Jewish Family and Vocational Service; Indiana Special Needs Adoption Program; Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; Kentucky One Church One Child; St. Elizabeth Regional Maternity Center; Kentucky's Special Needs Adoption Program; The Villages and Wednesday's Child.

For more information, contact Judi Spooner at (800)928-4303.

CFC Personnel Manual Available Online

The Office of Human Resource Management has developed the CFC Personnel Procedures Manual for online access. The online version of the Procedures Manual can answer basic questions employees may have about CFC Personnel.



The document was originally placed on an **Intranet** site, however, it was moved to the **Internet** site to increase its availability. Any employee with internet capability can view the manual at: http://cfc.state.ky.us/ohrm_manual/

Governor and First Lady Announce Legislation to Protect Women and Children

Release by the Governor's Press Office

Vowing that no year would go by without improving the safety of Kentuckians, the governor and first lady announced legislative packages last week addressing domestic violence, rape, child abuse, and the collection of child support.

"The three points of these legislative plans are in keeping with the goals we've had from the outset of the administration: to protect women and children, to get tough on offenders, and to use innovative technology to improve the system of justice," said Gov. Patton in announcing the plans.

First lady Judi Patton spoke to the need for legislation saying: "I don't think of today as announcing a package or a policy. I think of today as another step on our road to safe homes and safe streets for every woman and child."

"As much as my heart goes out to victims, I don't think I can truly explain how important this legislation is. The best voice I can give you for that is a woman whose life has known violence," said Mrs. Patton in introducing Kelly Morgan of Lexington. Morgan lent her support to the legislation and spoke to the importance of protecting women victimized by domestic violence and similar crimes. Morgan survived an attempted homicide by her boyfriend who shot her, killed her friend, and then committed suicide.

Gov. Patton described five bills, which will make up the legislative package addressing issues relating to domestic violence and sexual assault. The Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault recommended four bills, and one was developed as part of the first lady's



initiative on Children's Advocacy Centers. The five bills include:

AN ACT relating to Children's Advocacy Centers - Rep. John Vincent, Rep. Rob Wilkey

AN ACT relating to domestic violence information – Sen. Marshall Long

AN ACT relating to stalking - Rep. Rob Wilkey

AN ACT relating to crimes and punishments – Sen. Robert Stivers

AN ACT relating to sexual assault responses - Rep. Kathy Stein, Rep. Steve Nunn, and Rep. Joni Jenkins

Additionally, Gov. Patton announced a proposal to enhance the collection of child support. This bill would allow the Revenue Cabinet access to the Cabinet for Families and Children's database to collect delinquent child support.

"More than \$1.2 billion in child support obligations are currently delinquent," said Gov. Patton. "Our children depend on adults to care for them and to provide a quality life. It is time that we get tough on those who choose not to take care of their responsibilities as a parent."

The Child Support Division has information that identifies assets of delinquent payers but lacks an automated collection process to quickly seize the asset. Part of the proposal would help to eliminate this problem and reduce the problem for families who are unable to receive their child support from delinquent payers.

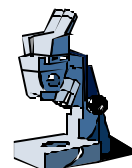
Other components of the proposal include:

- Allow the Revenue Cabinet to collect delinquent child support by using its automated processes already in place for the seizure of financial asset.
- Retain the Cabinet for Families and Children's responsibility for calculating the amount of arrearages due, processing receipts, and distributing child support collections.

- Allow an automated interface between the child support computer system and Revenue systems for fast, efficient administrative levy on the bank accounts of delinquent child support obligors.
- Increase collections of child support and thereby reduce the need for Public Assistance payments.

CHS Lab Survey Finds Exceptional Results

By David Knapp, CHS Laboratory Services



On Jan. 8, 2002, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services conducted a State Licensure survey of the Division of Laboratory Services. It was found that the state laboratory was not only in compliance with state regulations but also no deficiencies were found. Congratulations to the laboratory and its staff for their continuing excellent work performance. Everyone's day-to-day contributions attribute to this achievement.

The Division of Laboratory Services in Frankfort, Ky., makes reliable laboratory facilities available for the protection of health in the Commonwealth. The Division of Laboratory Services provides essential examinations of clinical and environmental specimens to support other state programs and local health department programs, and reference testing not readily available elsewhere for hospitals and practicing physicians. More can be learned about the laboratory and its services at its Web site, <http://publichealth.state.ky.us/laboratory-services.htm>

Again, congratulations to the Division of Laboratory Services on this achievement. The diligence of many workers is not only reflected in these types of surveys conducted, but is more importantly, highlighted in the service they provide to the Commonwealth.